

through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor. The Government has been implementing various programmes/schemes through out the country including Uttaranchal for betterment of the life of the people in general, and of those living below the poverty line, in particular.

Delay in awarding contracts by NHAI

1731. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India has succeeded in awarding only 35 per cent of the contracts for the North-South, East-West (Corridor NHDP-II);

(b) the reasons for delay in awarding contracts; and

(c) whether under the PPP framework the Planning Commission Committee on infrastructure had cleared a new Model Concession Agreement about a year ago but the Model Concession Agreement has yet to get agreement from other Ministries including his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-II consists of North-South and East-West corridors as well as other projects. Contracts of about 82.80% length of North-South and East-West Corridors and 93.39% of other projects pertaining to NHDP Phase-II have been awarded.

(c) A new Model Concession Agreement (MCA) was evolved by an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) comprising of representatives from concerned Ministries *i.e.* Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission and Ministry of Law. This MCA has been approved by the Committee on Infrastructure.

Directorate of road safety

1732. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up a Directorate of Road Safety; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) An Expert Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport and Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to deliberate and make recommendations for creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Management.

Cargo handling at Paradeep port

1733. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traffic at Paradeep port has picked up and the unit also has significantly picked up the handling of cargo;

(b) if so, the details of its impressive performance during the previous fiscal; and

(c) the action plan of Government to further improve the infrastructure of the unit to help handling the additional traffic when the new steel and other plants come into operation in Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Paradip port handled 33.10 million tonnes of cargo traffic during 2005-06 which is an increase of 30.78% over the year 2003-04.

(c) Development of the port including its infrastructure is an ongoing process. Keeping in view the demands of Maritime Trade under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) formulated by the Department of Shipping, a total number of 276 projects in the major ports involving